

## Ali meets Israeli envoy in Cairo

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali met Israel's Ambassador Moshe Sasson Sunday to discuss bilateral and Lebanese issues, officials said. The officials said the 45-minute discussion dealt with the talks involving Lebanon, Israel and the United States on a withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon. They also raised the issue of Tabia, a 700 square-metre coastal strip in Sinai over which the two countries have claimed sovereignty since Israel completed its withdrawal from the peninsula last year.

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## Tehran rejects Iraqi peace move

MADRID (R) — President Ali Khamenei of Iran was quoted Sunday as rejecting out of hand an offer by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to travel to Tehran to negotiate an end to the war between the two countries. The Iraqi leader made the offer in an interview last month with Rafael Fraguas, a correspondent of the respected Spanish daily newspaper *El País*. Asked for his reaction by the same correspondent, President Khamenei replied that Iran cannot accept the Iraqi president's proposal.

## Numeiri says 4,000 Sudanese are fighting for Iraq

JEDDAH (R) — A thousand regular Sudanese troops and 3,000 volunteers are fighting alongside the Iraqi army in the war against Iran. Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri was quoted as saying Sunday. In an interview with the London-based Saudi newspaper *Ash Sharq Al Awsat* he said the troops were sent after all mediation efforts to end the 29-month-old war had failed. Sudan said last month it had sent troops to help Iraq but had not previously given details of the numbers involved.

## Car bomb explodes south of Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — A car bomb exploded Sunday on a road near Damour south of Beirut, slightly injuring the driver of Lebanese Housing Minister Bahaaeddin Al Bessat, security sources said. They said the minister was not hurt. An Israeli vehicle which was passing at the time was not damaged.

## Iraq sends message to Mrs. Gandhi

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Ismat Kittani left Baghdad Sunday with a message from President Saddam Hussein to Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The Iraqi News Agency said the message dealt with the work of the non-aligned summit due to open in New Delhi on March 6. It gave no details. The summit should have taken place in Baghdad last September but was postponed and shifted to New Delhi because of the Iran-Iraq war.

## Iranian minister, Khaddam confer

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam discussed the situation in the Middle East and bilateral relations with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ahmad Azizi Sunday, the official Syrian News Agency (SANA) said. Mr. Azizi, who arrived in Damascus at the head of an Iranian delegation Sunday, carried a message to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad from Iran's President Ali Khamenei, the agency added. It did not give any other details.

## Irish rebels kill police reservist

BELFAST (R) — Irish guerrillas shot dead a policeman Sunday and hurled a grenade at the police station at Warrenpoint on the Northern Ireland border, police said. The Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA), fighting British rule in Northern Ireland, said it killed the policeman, the fourth to die at the hands of guerrillas this year.

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# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جريدة الأردنية للصحافة العربية "الرأي"

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## Blizzards kill 27 in Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — The death toll from blizzards lashing the central Lebanese mountains rose to 27 Sunday with the discovery of 11 bodies in two cars, civil defence sources said. The bodies of sixteen people who had frozen to death were found Saturday, they said. Continuing snowstorms in the area around the Beirut-Damascus road were hampering efforts to rescue stranded cars, radio stations reported.

# No crisis on Sudan's borders, Cairo says

CAIRO (R) — Egypt Sunday insisted there was no sign of a crisis on the Sudan-Libya border and brushed aside reports that American surveillance planes had flown into Egypt at Cairo's request to monitor a threatened Libyan invasion.

Official sources in Khartoum, where two days ago the news agency accused Libya of a military buildup on the Sudan border, said about 25 Libyan-trained agents had been arrested in the past three months on charges of plotting subversive acts.

The Egyptian dismissal of crisis reports was delivered by Defence Minister Mohammad Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala when he spoke to reporters after a meeting with the visiting U.S. assistant defence secretary, Francis West.

"I see no sign of crisis or of possible aggression on Sudan at present," the minister said.

Officials offered no comment on a report by the Washington Post that Egypt had requested U.S. military assistance to counter a reported plot by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi to invade Sudan and assassinate Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri.

### AWACS in Egypt

President Reagan said last Wednesday that sophisticated Airborne Warning And Control Systems (AWACS) aircraft had been sent to Egypt on exercise.

No mention of the AWACS presence was made in the Egyptian press although eyewitnesses reported seeing the aircraft at a military airport.

Foreign Ministry officials contradicted Mr. Reagan's statement that U.S. and Egyptian aircraft were engaged in joint exercises. They said Egyptian pilots were simply training on electronic equipment.

This was followed by an instant denial on the part of Egyptian officials that any request

## Arens says U.S.-Israeli relations worst in years

NEW YORK (R) — Israeli Defence Minister-Designate Moshe Arens said in an interview published Sunday that some members of the Reagan administration wanted to kick Israel in the teeth.

U.S. impatience over the progress of talks on the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon had contributed to worsening of Israeli-American relations in recent months, he told the New York Times.

Mr. Arens, the former Israeli ambassador to Washington who has been appointed to replace Ariel Sharon as defence chief, said frustration and anger between the two countries was probably running at the highest level of all time.

Mr. Arens said some U.S. officials had idealistic notions about how quickly a negotiated set-

tlement could be achieved in Lebanon.

He said the U.S. had appreciated the "elimination" of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Syrian military power in Lebanon and what he called an indirect setback to the Soviet Union.

This had brought compatibility between the United States and Israel. But it had been offset by "such a stridency of differences of opinion and such a degree of frustration and anger, like maybe we have never had before in Israeli-American relations," he added.

Mr. Arens, interviewed in Washington on Friday, said: "I think there is a great deal of impatience here, a feeling that things could be moving faster, and this impatience is giving rise in some quarters to suspicions that Israel is stalling."

## Nigerian move may spark new oil price-cutting war

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria appeared ready Sunday for an oil price-cutting war following its announcement of a \$5.50 reduction in its crude prices, the first public breach of OPEC solidarity by one of the organisation's 13 members.

The presidential adviser on petroleum and energy, Yahaya Dikko, announcing the reduction Saturday night, made it clear that Nigeria would not allow its new prices to be undercut.

But at the same time he called

on other exporters, whether members of OPEC (the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) or not, to react responsibly to Nigeria's move, prompted by cuts in the price of North Sea oil which competes with Nigerian crude.

"It needs to be reiterated that the restoration of stability and the defence of crude oil markets is a responsibility for both OPEC and non-OPEC exporters alike," he said.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday confers with members of a visiting delegation of American mayors (Petra photo)

## Regent receives American mayors

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, received at the Royal Court Sunday a delegation of eight American mayors from different parts of the United States.

The discussions at the meeting dealt with Middle Eastern issues in general and the situation in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories in particular, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

"Israel is pursuing an aggressive

and expansionist policy in the region clearly manifested in its drive to evict Arab inhabitants from their own homeland and to annex their lands and establish settlements," Petra quoted Prince Hassan as telling the delegation.

"Israel," Prince Hassan added, "is quickly utilising the time element by continuously consolidating its occupation of Arab territory and persistently foiling all efforts aimed at establishing peace."

The American delegation arrived in Amman Saturday evening for a week-long visit to Jordan. Its visit to Jordan is part of a programme aimed at improving understanding between Jordanians and Americans and bolstering their cooperation in economic, cultural and social fields. Petra said.

## Qadhafi challenges reports of buildup

NEW YORK (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has denied his troops were massed on Sudan's border and said he wanted the U.N. Security Council to inspect the area to prove it.

"I want the Security Council... it can come to this area and to see this short distance between Libya and Sunda," Col. Qadhafi told NBC Television in an interview in Tripoli on Saturday.

"It can see there are no Libyan troops at all and no Libyan bases in this area," he said.

He did not say whether Libya had made a formal request to the Security Council to send observers, but added:

"I think there is wrong information — a misunderstanding, because Egypt has stationed its aircraft on the border of Sudan, not Libya."

Sudan has accused Libya of massing troops, armour and aircraft near its border and charged Col. Qadhafi with plotting against the government in Khartoum.

During the interview, Col. Qadhafi produced a chart he said recorded the movements of aircraft from the U.S. carrier Nimitz near the Gulf of Sidra which Libya claims its territorial waters.

Marks purporting to show flights by U.S. navy planes came right up to a line representing the limit of Libya's territorial claim but did not cross it.

Col. Qadhafi also showed a chart he said listed the movements of U.S. AWACS surveillance planes in Egyptian airspace bordering Libya.

The spokesman said Prime Minister Menachem Begin proposed

## Libya complains against U.S.'threats, provocations'

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Libya, reserving the right to request a meeting of the Security Council, has complained to the United Nations over what it called United States "military threats and provocations."

In a letter Saturday to Security Council President Oleg Trotsky of the Soviet Union, Libyan U.N. Representative Ali Treiki also spoke of his country's right to take steps if necessary to defend its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

U.S. officials said last week four AWACS early-warning radar planes had been sent to Egypt amid reports of a Libyan military buildup near its border with Sudan.

The U.S. Sixth Fleet's presence near the Libyan coast could lead to a grave situation, he said, adding that it posed a threat to international as well as regional peace.

Sharon retains place in Lebanon negotiations

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli cabinet Sunday reinstated former Defence Minister Ariel Sharon as a member of the ministerial sub-committee coordinating Israel's position in negotiations with Lebanon, a government spokesman said.

Mr. Sharon was forced to leave the Defence Ministry last week after a judicial inquiry into the Beirut massacre recommended his resignation. But he has remained in the cabinet as minister without portfolio.

The inquiry blamed Mr. Sharon for a major part of Israel's indirect responsibility for the massacre last September, in which the Israeli says, Lebanon's Falangists killed hundreds of Palestinians.

Mr. Begin tabled the proposal because he felt that Mr. Sharon had much to offer the two committees, a senior official said.

It is not clear what Mr. Sharon's ministerial duties will be. The official said Mr. Begin has not discussed the matter with him and may not do so for several weeks.

## Probe into EPA may damage Reagan

WASHINGTON (R) — A clash between the White House and Congress over a White House refusal to release some documents appears to have been averted, but a congressional investigation into a toxic waste cleanup programme could still prove damaging to Preident Reagan.

Probes by five congressional committees into allegations of misconduct at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had threatened to escalate into a power struggle between the two branches of government when President Reagan claimed executive privilege over some key documents.

That led to a contempt of Congress citation against Anne Gorsuch, administrator of the EPA, which handles the cleanup programme. One of her aides was fired mysteriously. EPA papers have been shredded, and the FBI has been called in to investigate cover-up charges.

The clash has focused attention on charges that the Reagan administration is trying to weaken laws on clean air and water and to reduce regulation of industrial polluters. It has also been said that EPA officials conspired with industry to reduce the liability of firms guilty of pollution hazards.

Mr. Reagan's attempt to get court backing for his stand failed.

## PLO policy should be clear

## Sartawi resigns PNC membership

ALGIERS (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official Issam Sartawi said Sunday he had resigned from the movement's parliament-in-exile at a meeting here because it refused to grant him time to speak.

Mr. Sartawi, who has acted on occasion as a roving PLO ambassador, told reporters: "I have rejected this council. I don't care if it accepts my resignation or not."

The Palestine National Council (PNC), in its first session since the evacuation of PLO forces from Israeli-occupied Beirut last summer, went into closed meeting Sunday after winding up a debate on Middle East peace strategy Saturday night.

PLO sources said Mr. Sartawi, 48, had an angry confrontation with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasser Arafat Saturday night after PNC Speaker Khaled Al Fahoum failed to find time for him to speak in the hardliners-dominated public debates.

Mr. Sartawi tendered his resignation as a PNC member at the last session in April, 1981, but it was refused.

### Recognition of Israel

He said recently he planned to tell the PNC that, by endorsing a Soviet Middle East peace plan in 1981, it had implicitly recognised Israel's right to exist and should now issue a clear recognition of that country.

The United States has asked the PLO to recognise Israel — a move rejected by all PNC speakers so far — as the price for talking to the organisation.

PLO sources said the PLO leadership believed Mr. Sartawi's views would divide the organisation at a time when it was seeking to rebuild its unity and could provoke hardliners to press for an explicit rejection of them.

Despite the fiery hardline rhetoric at the current meeting, Mr. Arafat's aides thought the 355-member PNC would leave the PLO leader some room to manoeuvre in his cautious diplomatic approach to Middle East peace.

They said the PNC seemed likely to tie Mr. Arafat down on some issues, particularly on its refusal to accept President Reagan's call last September for Palestinian self-rule in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in association with Jordan.

Mr. Arafat has so far stopped

short of rejecting the Reagan plan outright, as Israel has done.

### PNC 'failures'

A clearly incensed Mr. Sartawi said the PNC had failed to live up to the standards of democracy required of it. "The Palestinian people need a leading body as deep as their tragedy," he said.

He affirmed his support of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people but said Palestinians had a right to know how well or badly their interests were being looked after by the organisation.

In a clear reference to a two-hour speech on Friday by pro-Libyan commando chief Ahmad Jibril, he said it was immoral that the PNC should find time for "those who want to sell the Palestinian people like a flock of sheep to (Libyan leader Muammar) Qadhafi," but could not give him 10 minutes to speak.

### 'Beirut victory'

He also objected to a series of speeches by others heralding last summer's battle of Beirut, which led to the PLO evacuation of the city, as a victory.

"If that was a victory, then we need it is a series of victories and we will be holding the next PNC meeting in Fiji," he said.

The current PNC session is the first to be held outside an Arab state bordering Israel.

The PNC Sunday morning broke up into eight subcommittees which are expected to meet for at least one full day before presenting draft resolutions to the assembly.

Mr. Arafat, who has yet to defend his policies, is expected to speak just before the PNC votes on the resolutions.

## Lebanon talks called off today

TEL AVIV (R) — Bad weather has forced the cancellation of Monday's talks in the resort town of Netanya between Israeli, Lebanese and U.S. negotiators on the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon. Israeli officials said Sunday. In more than two days of heavy rain and snow storms roads were flooded and power lines torn up, particularly in Jerusalem and other high areas.

## Arab team's U.K. visit replanned for mid-March

LONDON (R) — Britain said Sunday a much-postponed visit to London by an Arab League mission promoting a Middle East peace plan was being rescheduled for mid-March.

Specific dates had not been fixed. A Foreign Office spokesman said King Hassan of Morocco would lead the mission, he added.

## FEATURES

### Anorexia Nervosa: Illness that must be taken seriously

By Ronald Clarke

LOS ANGELES (R) — In the film world Anorexia Nervosa is known as "stars' disease," the lavish devotion to the cameras and the public that turns would-be actresses into 80-pound (36 kilogram) walking skeletons.

"It all begins with a desire to be thin. Cultural pressures are on women in this image-conscious, weight-conscious city to be thin," Dr. Joel Yager, director of an eating-disorder clinic in Los Angeles, said.

His patients at his clinic, part of the University of California in Los Angeles, include not only actresses, but fashion models, dancers and gymnasts.

Anorexia Nervosa turns dieting into a tragic obsession, when even emaciated victims feel they must lose more weight.

The latest victim to be revealed

is singer Karen Carpenter, of the brother-and-sister singing duo the Carpenters, who died in Los Angeles of an apparent heart attack.

Her personal manager, Jerry Weintraub, said Miss Carpenter, whose soft, clear voice helped sell more than \$60 million worth of records, including "We've Only Just Begun" and "Close to You" had been treated for Anorexia Nervosa for the past 18 months.

Dr. Yager said cardiac arrest was a major cause of death of people who have suffered from Anorexia Nervosa.

Although the illness is known in Hollywood as "stars' disease," doctors said "starlets' disease" would be a more accurate description.

Teen-aged girls and women under 24 are the most frequent patients, often actresses and dancers seeking attention in the world of "cattle calls" — mass auditions

for bit parts.

Cherry Boone O'Neill, eldest of the four daughters of singer Pat Boone, described in a book on her battle with Anorexia pills and laxatives.

Miss O'Neill, 28, who said she was pronounced cured in 1979 after starting to diet as a teenager, said her weight had at one time dropped to 36 kilograms.

She said of Miss Carpenter: "She will not have died in vain if people start taking Anorexia Nervosa seriously now."

Debby Boone, singing daughter of the family, said her sister, who lives at Bothell, Washington, 24 kilometers north of Seattle, had done two things to help become cured.

"She went to a Christian psy-

chologist and moved away from Los Angeles so she could reverse her bad eating habits," Miss Boone said.

"Ten years ago, Anorexia Nervosa was a rich woman's disease," he said. "Patients came from Beverly Hills and other affluent sections of the city."

"But now middle class women, also want to be thin. The illness is spreading to them."

Doctors say the typical victim of Anorexia Nervosa in Los Angeles is a young, successful, ambitious and attractive woman.

Dr. Yager said studies had shown between five and 10 per cent of sufferers would be dead within five to 10 years.

"The heart becomes very inefficient under conditions of Anorexia Nervosa," Dr. Yager said.

"Between 30 and 50 per cent of the sufferers will eventually be-

come members of the binge-and-purge syndrome," he added. "These are the people who eat a lot and then vomit."

"They gain weight, but they are still abusing their bodies," he said.

Doctors said in long-term cases, people began "autodigesting," in which the body began feeding on its protein store.

Friends said they felt Miss Carpenter had overcome the effects of Anorexia Nervosa when she died.

Musician Herb Alpert, of the Tijuana Brass Sound, who had helped Karen and Richard Carpenter in their careers, said they were preparing for another album and were talking of a concert tour when she died.

"She was on the upside," he said. "That is what made the whole thing so tragic."

### Kangaroo hunters 'must shoot straight'

By Brian Timms

Reuter

SYDNEY — Australian kangaroo hunters have been told for the first time that if they do not shoot straight and avoid causing suffering, they could go to jail.

The warnings are being issued along with hunting licences in the state of Queensland as another controversial kangaroo hunting season gets under way.

Three million kangaroos have been officially allocated for slaughter throughout Australia this year, despite warnings that they could become extinct.

The federal government disagrees with conservationists on this, pointing out that there are at least 35 million kangaroos, more than double the human population.

Professional hunters and farmers given licences to kill usually operate at night, pin-pointing victims with a beam of light from a truck.

Australia exported 1.8 million kilogrammes of kangaroo meat last year, most as pet food but some for human consumption in Japan, Hong Kong, South Africa and Switzerland.

A government official said the meat is rich, has a high protein content and is subject to stringent hygiene control.

Professor Peter Singer, chairman of the Australian Federation of Animal Societies, described the licence to kill policy as an uncontrolled sham.

"How can there be such a programme when the numbers of kangaroos killed illegally is equal to the legal kill and for all we know may greatly exceed it," he said.

Farmers must obtain a state licence to kill kangaroos ravaging their crops. Professional hunters also need a licence and must pay about 15 cents (14 U.S.) each for small plastic tags which they have to attach to every carcass sold to wholesalers.

The professionals have every reason to heed the "shoot straight" warning.

The state of Victoria has banned commercial killing and now grants licences only to farmers suffering bad crop damage. It hopes that other states will follow.

The current drought, the worst this century, has also killed off many kangaroos. A reduced population is expected when the official count is taken in June, though wildlife department officials said breeding would soon restore the numbers.

In some parts, kangaroos outnumber sheep four to one.

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# Jordan Times

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## Saving the world economy

In 1945, after the end of World War II, Europe lay in ruins. German production was only 33 per cent of pre-war figures. French industrial production was halved. Twenty-two per cent of German housing was built of rubble. Britain was practically bankrupt. Thirty-five years later, West Germany is the strongest economic power in Europe and one of the strongest in the world. Already in the 1950s, the world talked about the German wonder. And it was a wonder not only for West Germany but for the whole of Europe.

What were the underlying reasons for this wonder? European thirst? Maybe, but only to some extent. The recipe was for massive economic aid from the U.S., a financial stream which in a record time put the European economy back on its feet—something the patchwork, piecemeal aid earlier contemplated would have never done.

The Marshall plan cured Europe. Today most of the Third World has economies in rubbles, not conventional war but because of a merciless economic war between giants. The small economies lose out because of lack of competitiveness or they become the battleground for others. In many wars in old times, some countries served as "blood banks", either for troops or money. Today, the Third World is, in many cases, the blood bank. At the cost of their own self-sufficiency in, for example, grains, it becomes the greenhouse for the rich world's luxury consumption. Well known examples are pineapple production in Kenya or coffee and cocoa production in countries where scarce land should be used for local staple food for a starving population.

But the economic war has also hurt developing economies in other ways. A heavy dependence on

imported energy quickly erodes the export earnings of many Third World countries. Fluctuations in commodity prices, decided upon by a handful of big companies, jeopardise the economies of the many one-commodity exporting countries. They need help. And as was the case of Europe after World War II they need massive transfers of economic resources. They need it to change a one-commodity export structure, to change a dangerous dependence on imported energy and to shake off the yoke of economic 20th Century colonialism.

The need for effective help for the ailing Third World economy has for many years been discussed within the U.N., the IMF, the World Bank and other fora including the Brandt commission. Until only a short while ago, discussions went without much success due to unwillingness from the big economic powers, including some of those European countries which received Marshall aid. This, however, seems to be changing. The reasons behind the change are not uninteresting, but should not be used as weapons in the debate. And we can congratulate the big economic powers for having finally understood the fact of interdependence in world economy.

As has also been concluded by the Brandt commission, the developing economies need these massive transfers of resources now to save not only their own economies but the world economy as well. The decision taken by the IMF last week to raise its lending capacity is a step in the right direction. We can only hope that the U.S. Congress—which does not seem to see the link to their own economy—realises that the Third World is not Europe, but is equally important for the survival of the whole world economy.

## JORDAN'S ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

### *Al Ra'i:* Washington must defend its credibility

The Lebanese-Israeli-American talks have not proved effective yet, and little progress seems to have been made despite U.S. Special Envoy Philip Habib's partial participation in the talks. This present situation only proves that Israel is still capable of asserting itself, and that no real American pressure has been exerted on Israel to withdraw its forces from Lebanon, which is an indispensable prerequisite for solving the Palestinian problem. America's present very lenient attitude towards Israel's

### *Al Dustour:* Yugoslavia, Jordan find common ground on Mideast

The friendly relations between Jordan and Yugoslavia made the talks between His Majesty King Hussein and the Yugoslav leaders exceptionally constructive. The two sides expressed their deep concern over the dangerous situation in the Middle East, and the threat to world peace this situation poses.

The Palestinian problem and the Iran-Iraq war inevitably were at the centre of these talks. The necessity of putting an end to Israel's aggressive policies was reiterated by the Yugoslav side. An-

### *Sawt Al Shaab:* Democratic debate characterises PNC debates

The Palestine National Council (PNC) debate reflects the democratic nature of the decision-making process operated by the representatives of the Palestinian people. Regardless of the fact that Fatah movement has a majority in the PNC that enables the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat to enforce his moderate line, the hardliners and revisionist in the PNC have still had their chance to express their views and present their romantic attitudes.

The moderates in the PNC are obviously winning the day, and the first casualty at the Council, in the

adventurism is, it is feared, characteristic of Washington's whole outlook towards the conflict in the region. Israel of course is concerned to enhance this and further to damage U.S. credibility so that any chance of implementing the proposed Reagan peace plan will disappear.

It is in turn the U.S.'s interest to defend its credibility, and the first step towards that starts in Lebanon, which could still open the way for a just and comprehensive peace in the whole region.

The Jordanian and Yugoslav sides in the talks stressed the need to end the Iran-Iraq war, the continuance of which is in nobody's interest except those colonial and neo-colonial world forces who have always acted against the interests of the developing nations.

In Washington, key congressmen have said they do not like raising U.S. contributions at a time when nearly 12 million Americans are unemployed. But in a parallel debate, development experts are striving to convince politicians that policy changes and a bigger injection of resources to help the Third World will, in turn,

light of the Lebanon experience, has been the rejectionist "Steadfastness and Confrontation Front", which supported the Palestinians in words rather than deeds, as the PNC spokesman pointed out. The great concern for the occupied Arab territories and their people has been abundantly expressed by members of the PNC. The majority of the representatives of the Palestinian people mean to safeguard an independent Palestinian decision-making mechanism, capable of seizing all political opportunities that avail themselves both at the Arab and international levels.

### Deployment plans on schedule

By Robert Trautman  
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Despite development problems, deployment plans are still on schedule for the Pershing-2 and Cruise missiles, the U.S. weapons at the centre of the Geneva talks on reducing medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe. U.S. officials say.

The first Pershings are due to be positioned in West Germany in December and the first Cruise missiles in Britain and Italy at about the same time.

The first Pershing test flight failed last July and the second last November was only a partial success. A third, last month, went well and another last week appeared normal, although a full assessment has not yet been made.

The Cruise missile passed its first six tests but failed the seventh. President Reagan has offered to cancel the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) plan to deploy 572 Pershings and Cruises in western Europe if the Soviet Union agrees to dismantle some 600 medium-range SS-20s.

SS-20s rejected this so-called "zero-zero" proposal. In a counter offer, the Soviet Union has said it would cut its missile force aimed at Western Europe to 162, the number of missiles in the independent British and French forces, if NATO dropped its plans

to deploy the 108 Pershings and 464 Cruises.

This in turn was rejected by the Reagan administration. Some military experts say cutting back Pershing deployment may be a key to any agreement because of the two U.S. missiles, the Pershing is the one Moscow fears more.

But the Pershing is also the missile which has had the most serious problems — so severe, in fact, that Congress last year withheld production funds until the troubles were ironed out. The Pershing-2's range of 1,700 km is twice that of the Pershing-1, which is already based in West Germany, and it is 10 times more accurate. With that range and accuracy, it would give U.S. forces the ability to hit targets inside the Soviet Union within minutes of launching in West Germany, where all 108 are to be deployed.

But the missile has had problems almost from 1972 when new guidance systems were developed to improve the accuracy of the old Pershing-1.

#### Motor failure

One of the troubles with Pershing was rocket motor failure. In the Pershing's first test flight from Cape Canaveral, Florida, last July 22, the motor leaked fuel and the missile had to be exploded shortly after launching. The second test

flight, at the White Sands missile range in New Mexico, was only a partial success because the missile's guidance system failed to meet all the goals set for it.

After the successful test flight on January 21 at Cape Canaveral, U.S. army officials reiterated their conviction that Pershing development was on schedule and deployment would go ahead as planned.

Compared with the Pershing, the Cruise missile is a success story.

The Cruise has range of 2,500 km but travels at the relatively slow speed of about 800 km an hour compared with the Pershing's supersonic speed. And although the Cruise can skim as low as several metres from the ground and fly under present Soviet radar, Moscow is developing new defences which could make the U.S. missile vulnerable, military analysts say.

Development of the Cruise went ahead without setbacks until last December 17 when the missile crashed some 30 seconds after launching during a test at the Utah test and training range. Officials are still investigating the failure but are confident it will not delay deployment.

A total of 96 Cruise will be placed in West Germany and the others in Britain (160), Italy (112), and Belgium and the Netherlands (48 each).

## DE FACTONOMICS

By T.A. Jaber

### Lending to the heavily indebted

The issue of external debt for the Third World has come in the last six months to the forefront of the concerns of political and financial leaders in both developed and developing countries. Never before in history has the threat to the financial and banking systems been so widespread and frightening except perhaps in the great depression of 1930s.

The external debt crisis has emerged in the seventies as an outcome of policies of about 25 developing countries to borrow from the commercial banks and the eagerness of those banks to increase their profits through lending with little attention to the risks involved. Thus, developing countries borrowed from commercial banks alone, in addition to official loans from developed countries and regional and international institutions, more than \$400 billion, of which 35 per cent were lent by banks in the United States.

The OPEC countries realised substantial surpluses in their current accounts which were deposited in banks in the U.S. and Western Europe. The

growth in the developing countries exports was promising which meant that these countries would be able to repay their debts without much difficulty.

However, economic recession which burdened the world economy over the last three years reduced international trade including exports of the indebted countries. Thus, countries like Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Yugoslavia and others were not able even to service their foreign debts. If the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the major industrialised countries did not intervene, many indebted countries would have been declared bankrupt which would threaten the world with a disastrous banking and financial crisis.

What did the IMF do? It managed additional debts to the needy developing countries hoping that over a transitional period of two to three years from now, more favourable economic conditions will enhance their capacity to repay their debts. The IMF arranged last month a package loan to bail out Mexico of \$3.9 billion.

In addition, commercial banks were pressed to lend \$5 billion and industrial countries provided export credit of \$2 billion. This brought external debts of Mexico to a total of close to \$100 billion.

Other similar arrangements are being worked out by the IMF. Along with these loans, the IMF requires certain painful changes in the economic policies of the indebted countries. They have to slow their economic growth, dampen domestic demand, cut back subsidies, depreciate their exchange rates and make better use of the possible increased demand for their exports.

Resources of the IMF have been augmented this month by over 47 per cent, to bring them to a total of \$98.5 billion. This significant increase was raised more than ten years ago by the Third World and referred to by the Brandt Commission in 1980. It enhances the role of the IMF to transfer short and medium term resources to those developing countries facing balance of payments deficits. The IMF will be able to become closer to the concept of an international central bank

which was conceived forty years ago by Lord Keynes.

More resources are gathered to rescue the world economy. The rich industrial countries have provided \$19 billion under the title "General Agreements to Borrow" while Saudi Arabia contributed \$15 billion.

While the enhanced role of the IMF in international finance and debt management should be welcomed as well as the increased contributions of the rich countries, serious questions on the possible outcomes of the foreign debt problem have yet to be settled. Is there a way to guide, if not control, the credit policies of thousands of commercial banks to avoid excessive lending to certain developing countries? What did the heavily indebted countries do with the huge sums they had borrowed? What if these countries failed to repay their increased debts despite the recent rescue arrangements?

These and other questions have to be taken into considerations while running the risk of lending more to the heavily indebted countries.

## Lesotho now again thrust to the front

By Rodney Pinder

Reuter

MASERU — A sabotage raid on fuel facilities has thrust the remote mountain Kingdom of Lesotho once again to the front in the dangerous world of southern African politics. It is a prominent position that belies Lesotho's physical stature as one of the world's smaller nations, of about 30,000 square kilometres, the same size as Belgium.

But little Lesotho is gaining the reputation of being the mouse that roars in Southern Africa. The impoverished enclave of 1.2 million people, many of them hardy mountain horsemen, lies deep inside South Africa — the farthest-flung outpost of independent black Africa. It is surrounded by the white-ruled republic and almost completely dependent on it for survival.

Yet the more it suffers, the fiercer its outcry becomes. Lesotho has blamed rebels of the Lesotho Liberation Army (LLA), which it says is backed by South Africa, for the destruction of a fuel depot in Maseru and a resulting fire at a neighbouring steel factory.

Pretoria rejects charges that it is allowing LLA rebels to operate with impunity from South African soil. But Radio Lesotho said a helicopter had been seen dropping bombs during last Sunday's raid. A government spokesman accused South Africa of aiming at economic targets in Lesotho "as it is doing in Angola and Mozambique" — the major battlegrounds of sub-Saharan Africa.

Diminutive Lesotho's blunt speaking beneath the nose of South Africa, the biggest military and economic power on the continent south of Egypt, frequently argues the small diplomatic community in Maseru. One Western envoy said before the latest attack that Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan's government should tone down its rhetoric and make friends with its giant neighbour.

Brandt commissioners pride themselves on having alerted world opinion, in their first report in 1980, to the mutual dependence of the industrial "North" and developing "South". The new report, widely hailed as reinforced the message and proposing pragmatic measures.

"What is lacking is the will among governments to see these things are done when they ought to be done," said former British Prime Minister Edward Heath, a Commission member. "Too little, too late is the norm."

The Brandt commission wanted IMF quotas doubled at least. Although British Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister) Sir Geoffrey Howe said the increase agreed in Washington represented "what is necessary, desirable and feasible," Mr. Heath said it was inadequate.

"But we ought to be glad they are at least moving," he told Reuters.

"There is no place for a zero option in the dialogue for world recovery," says Commonwealth Secretary-General Shridath Ramphal, borrowing the term for the present monarch, to seek refuge within the British empire. Lesotho became a British territory until independence in 1966.

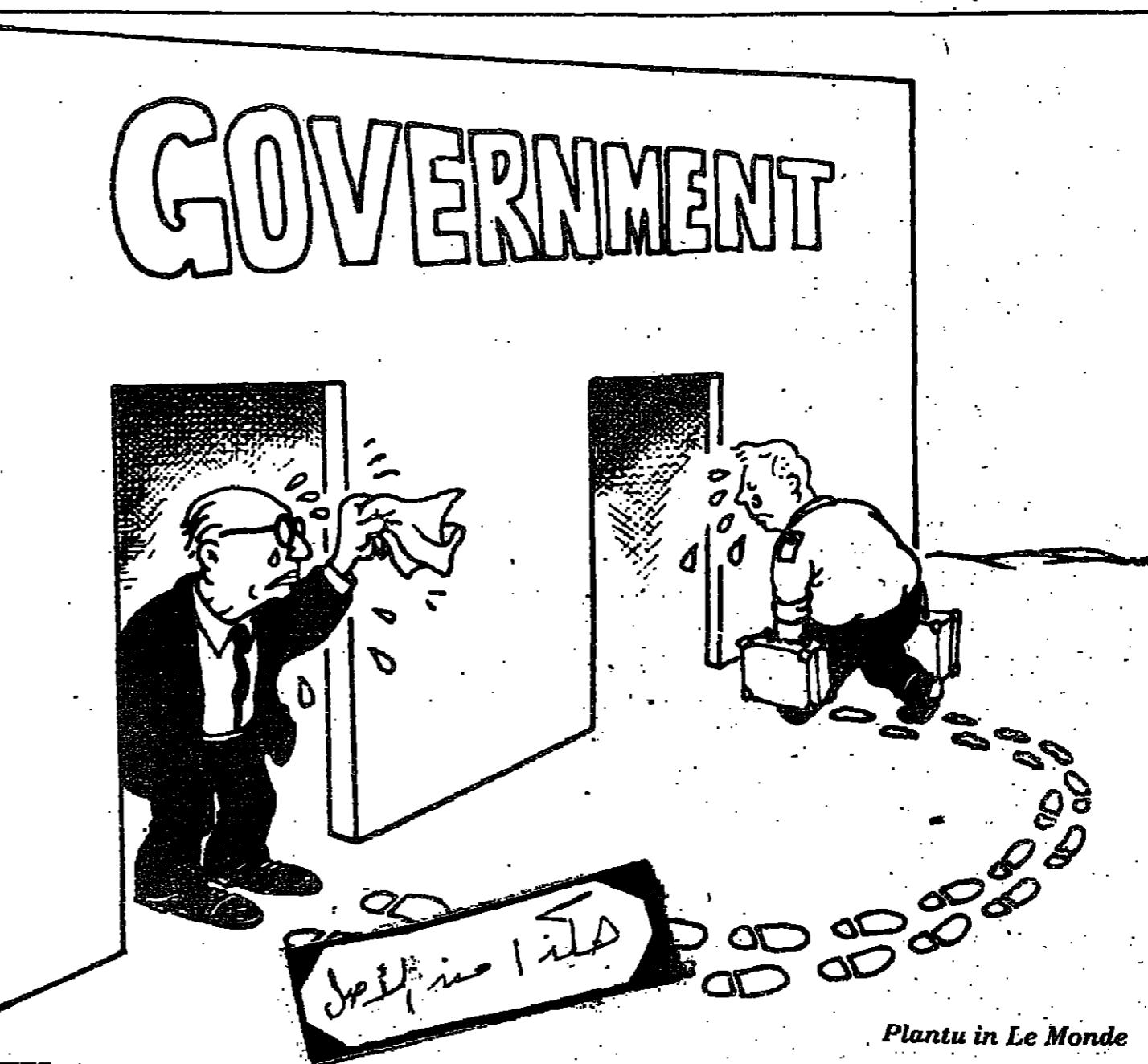
Even before the December attack, relations between Lesotho and the republic were deteriorating, diplomats said. Chief Jonathan has publicly and frequently accused South Africa of supporting the Lesotho Liberation Army against him.

Diplomats say the LLA operates bases inside South Africa — the border is only two kilometres away — and that the republic at the very least turns a blind eye to LLA activities, which range from haphazard mortar attacks to bombings and assassinations.

Pretoria counters that Lesotho is looking for scapegoats. Whatever the explanation, the anti-South African tone of public statements in Maseru has become increasingly strident. Chief Jonathan told representatives of 61 nations and international aid agencies at a conference here last month that the "Boers" were conducting a regional campaign of atrocities and destabilisation against their independent black neighbours. He described Lesotho as Pretoria's unwilling hostage.

The language, from conservative Lesotho, astonished many at the conference. It echoed that frequently emanating from the region's radical Socialist states of Mozambique and Zimbabwe, who are not as vulnerable to South Africa as is Lesotho. Lesotho is virtually an extension of the African economy. Its shops and businesses are South African branches.

A customs union between the countries provides 70 per cent of government revenue. About half the country's male workers work in South African mines and what they remit home accounts for nearly half Lesotho's gross national product.



Plantu in Le Monde



# WORLD

## S. Australian bush fires under control

MELBOURNE (R) — The bush is still blazing in places, but fires which devastated large tracts of southern Australia are now under control and the nation has time at last to assess the enormity of the disaster and discover its causes.

At least 71 people died and 3,000 homes were destroyed as the flames swept parts of Victoria and South Australia states last week. Over 200,000 sheep and 12,000 cattle were also lost.

"Looters will be shot" signs have appeared outside gutted homes in an attempt to save any possessions which might have survived the fire.

The area had already been parished by the worst drought in Australia's history. Now over 200,000 square kilometres, much of it prime farmland, have been scorched black.

The fires, which started on Wednesday, were as bad in terms of lives as the worst in the country's history on "Black Friday" in 1939 when 71 people died in Victoria.

### Arson suspected

Fire chiefs who believe the latest blazes could have been acts of arson are probing the ashes for evidence, such as petrol cans. Arsonists are responsible for one

in five bush fires here.

"Reports indicate that a number of fires were lit deliberately," said Melbourne police chief superintendent Don Plant.

Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, now campaigning for a general election on March 5, went to church in Melbourne Sunday to lead the nation in a day of prayer and national mourning.

Hundreds of firefighters are still trying to beat out and dampen down a big blaze in wilderness east of Melbourne, capital of Victoria.

It is under control and the nearest town, Warburton, is not in danger.

A few small fires were burning Sunday northeast of Adelaide, South Australia's capital, though the state of emergency in the region had been lifted.

Many of them are already planning to rebuild their homes and have returned to park caravans among the debris and sift the wreckage for possessions.

There have been three arrests for looting reported so far. Police said most of the looting fears were caused by rumours, but they have increased night patrols.

### Cows explode

GRAVOC, Australia (R) — Farmers talk of cows exploding from the heat when sheets of flame, as high as the gum trees, raced in from the Australian grasslands in

devastating bush fires that have taken at least 71 human lives.

Years of drought had already reduced the grasslands to what appeared to be a white carpet, rolled out across the state of Victoria's rich stock belt, 320 kilometres west of Melbourne.

On Wednesday, as temperatures hit about 40 degrees Centigrade (104 Fahrenheit), the carpet caught fire, burning alive or maiming 4,750 cattle and more than 10,000 sheep.

Eight people died among the farming community around the town of Garvoc, 225 kilometres southwest of Melbourne. Two fathers and their sons burned to death in their cars while trying to flee the flames.

Now trucks from the meat canning company pass along dusty roads taking blisters and lame cattle to abattoirs for emergency slaughter.

But most of the dead cattle and sheep were unfit to eat and have been buried in 11 pits on the edge of fields.

Many cows with burned udders and sheep with their wool seared off were shot between the eyes to put them out of their misery.

The fires in the district burned over 60,000 hectares (150,000 acres) of grasslands, destroying 140 farm houses, flattened except for the galvanised water tanks which stood beside them.

"This is what it did," said farmer Ted Bennett, kicking pats of cow and sheep dung.

"They got alight and the wind blew them around the farms. It wouldn't have been so bad otherwise."

As his herd of 95 dairy cows galloped in panic from the rushing fire, the wind changed and instead of killing the cows burned down his house and hay barns.

The cows used to give about 100 gallons (380 litres) of milk a day. Over the last two days they have produced 10 gallons (38 litres).

"They're still frightened. They're just drying up. There's not much hay and not much water to give them," Mr. Bennett said.

In the aftermath of the fire, overhead power lines are also being blamed for the extent of the devastation. When the pylons fell, the sparks set off more fires and electricity was cut to the pumps bringing up borehole water.

With milk supplies now virtually ceased, milk tankers are taking water to the farms, where the cows practically stampede to get at it.

Although he now lives in a caravan alongside his ruined house, Mr. Bennett was luckier than some. At least the wind spared his cattle.

It will take years to restore the land. Only rain can bring relief. But there is no hope in the weather forecast.

Farmers lose all  
Many of the farmers lost everything and compare themselves with the 8,000 townfolk, who may have been made homeless but still have jobs and an income.

"We've got nothing coming in," said Mr. Bennett, kicking pats of cow and sheep dung.

"A lot of us have already borrowed money to tide us over the drought."

The last time Mr. Bennett saw rain was 1.5 inches (38 ml) in October. And before that? He shrugs at the question.

In the town's mechanics institute hall, farmers come in to pick up donated clothes, have a cup of tea and talk over what they are going to do.

A picture of Queen Elizabeth hangs on the wall, a reminder that most of the people there are descendants of British settlers.

They worry about where the hay is coming from, because so much of Australia is affected by drought that there is little to spare.

They discuss trying to wean the cows onto wheat pellets, which one calls "starvation rations."

There are not many centres left in the region, which looks like a huge charred paddock. The ground is so hard that it would break any known plough and re-seeding is impossible.

It will take years to restore the land. Only rain can bring relief. But there is no hope in the weather forecast.

## Over 500 die in Assam

By Najimul Hasan

NELLIE, India (R) — At least 500 villagers, many of them women and children, were killed by frenzied tribesmen on Friday in central Assam, local Indian officials said here Sunday.

Some were beheaded and already decomposing.

More than 500 people were wounded in the bloodshed, which continued all Friday and the first part of Saturday.

Many were lying untreated with festering wounds in the open grounds of a school, in this small immigrant village, some 70 kilometres east of Gauhati, which was the centre of the massacre.

Police said they had collected 200 bodies and several hundred more were lying in fields where they were cut down by the tribesmen, using bows and arrows, axes, guns and spears.

I counted at least 150 corpses, many with gaping wounds and covered in mud, lying in open land and amid the debris of charred villages.

Earlier, India's two main news agencies had reported that at least 250 villagers, many of them women and children had died in two frenzied days of killing in central Assam.

The agencies said the killings took place in a string of villages around Nellie in the central Nowrang area of Assam state, where voting had been taking place all week for a 126-seat local assembly.

## Marcos placates church

MANILA (R) — President Ferdinand Marcos moved Sunday to avert a confrontation with the powerful Roman Catholic church by making a fresh appeal for a dialogue on social and economic problems in the Philippines.

In an apparent effort to defuse its impact, Mr. Marcos said he had invited church leaders to hold what the presidential palace said was "a more vigorous dialogue" on improving the social and economic welfare of the people.

Mr. Marcos said he had invited Archbishop Antonio Matutina, president of the Bishops' Conference, to a meeting with cabinet ministers at which they would discuss the role of the church in economic and social welfare programmes.

## Tikhonov's Greek visit bound to be controversial

By Neocosmos Tzalias  
Reuter

ATHENS — Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Tikhonov arrives in Athens Monday for a three-day visit at a time of strain in Greece's relations with its traditional Western allies.

Mr. Tikhonov is expected to discuss economic and industrial cooperation with Greece's first Socialist government. While no political agreements are expected, the visit could further improve relations between the two countries.

A coroner's spokesman said the victims were aged between 20 and 60 and the woman was middle-aged.

"They were bound hand and feet together like pigs and slaughtered," police official said.

There has been gang warfare in the Chinatown area in the past,

but police said they did not believe the police were connected with the murders.

Despite the latest clashes, diplomats hoped South Africa and Angola would still go ahead with the planned talks and would be eager to build on a first round of discussions held in Cape Verde late last year.

Apart from the question of a possible border ceasefire, official sources were quoted in Luanda as saying the proposed meeting would focus on speeding up the implementation of United Nations wishes on the territory.

It said the workman was able to help British security services identify Soviet intelligence agents among the 630 officials at the sprawling trade centre at Highgate in North London.

He was one of a team of British workmen hired by the Soviets to renovate the building in 1979. During the next two years he was able to photograph documents, bug at least one meeting in the building and check cars.

The four men expelled as suspected spies were Victor Lazine, second secretary at the Soviet embassy, trade delegation member Vladimir Zadneprovsky, naval attaché Anatoly Zhotov and Vladimir Chernov, an interpreter at the London-based International Wheat Council.

Initially the Soviet staff watched the workmen carefully, giving each an individual guard, but security soon slackened, the Observer said, and guards were bribed with cans of beer.

The agent established that one Soviet intelligence man who had escaped British surveillance was leaving the building each morning hidden in a school bus, the Observer said.

The visit marked a thaw in Greek-Soviet relations following the 1974 collapse of the seven-year regime of the Greek colonels and the restoration of democracy — including legalisation, after 30 years, of the Greek Communist Party (KKE).

The Soviet Union had maintained working relations with the

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Karachi police detain 12 Iranian students

KARACHI (R) — Police detained a dozen Iranian students in Karachi Sunday after bomb blasts shattered five French offices Saturday night. Authoritative sources said local newspapers said the blasts might be linked to reports of recent French arms sales to Iran's warring neighbour Iraq. The Karachi Star newspaper reported that police believed that attacks were carried out by "Iranian commandos."

Pregnant orang-utan bites top surgeon

LONDON (R) — One of Britain's top surgeons has cancelled his appointments after being bitten by a pregnant orang-utan. Gynaecologist William Whitehouse was called on a call on one of London Zoo's most important mothers-to-be. Bulu, the first orang-utan to be born and raised in England, due to give birth early this summer, grew cross when Mr. Whitehouse made the mistake of peering too closely at her bulging stomach. Without warning, the 21-year-old ape sank her teeth into his hand. "Women are all the same," the surgeon said later. "They get irritable when they're pregnant."

### Schoolgirl refuses to dissect rats

PONTYPRIDD, Wales (R) — Animal-loving schoolgirl Claire Matyrs risks failing a vital exam because she refuses to cut up a dead rat. Claire, 17, says she will have nothing to do with dissecting bodies even if it means a heavy loss of marks in the biology paper she has to produce for her a-level examinations — the test that determines whether students qualify for university. "It is wrong to kill any animal," she said. "It is an unnecessary sacrifice of small creatures in the cause of education."

Teacher Derek Griffiths said of Claire's protest: "It's the first time I've come across anything like this in 25 years of teaching. But of course I respect her views."

### Battles rage around Salvadorean town

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Fierce fighting from Friday till Saturday has failed to shake leftist guerrillas' control of the main road into the town of Suchitoto which has been under insurgent siege for a week, military spokesman said Sunday. They said the army and guerrillas exchanged heavy fire throughout Friday night but the guerrillas still held positions along the road and on the periphery of the small town which lies some 45 kilometres north of the capital, San Salvador.

### Border war rages in Nicaragua

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (R) — Nicaraguan troops are locked in fierce fighting with right wing guerrillas near the Honduran border. The defence ministry said the guerrillas had been under assault for a week. The ministry said more than 50 guerrillas had been killed or wounded in clashes around Quilal in northern Nueva Segovia province. Government losses were put at eight dead. Chinese-made weapons were seized in the fighting. The ministry said, adding that guerrillas had been operating in the area since Feb. 9. In Managua, six captured guerrillas — two of them youths aged 15 and 13 — were freed Saturday after they renounced their intent to topple the leftist government.

### Purge reported from Soviet Azerbaijan

MOSCOW (R) — The Communist Party chief in the Soviet republic of Azerbaijan disclosed this week that there had been a purge in the republic, according to a local newspaper which reached Moscow Saturday. Kyanan Bagirov told a meeting of the republic's Communist Party that several party and state officials had been sacked, expelled from the party or sentenced for criminal offences. Mr. Bagirov, elected party chief last December in place of Gaidar Aliyev, indicated he would continue to pursue ruthless disciplinary policies adopted by his predecessor.

## Mozambican civilians increasingly in peril

CHIMOIO, Mozambique (R) — Guerrillas of the Mozambique National Resistance (RNM) have killed 31 people in two ambushes this month in the centre of the country, hospital officials said.

Both attack took place close to the main road and railway line linking landlocked Zimbabwe with the sea at Beira.

Dr. Elias Walle, director of Chimoio Hospital, said 18 people were killed and 14 wounded on Feb. 2 when rebels attacked four vehicles with bazookas and automatic rifle fire near Vauduzi, 40 kilometres west of Chimoio.

A small group of part-time militiamen escorted the vehicles in view of earlier attacks on the road, he said. Three militiamen were killed, but the other victims were all unarmed civilians.

On Feb. 7, the hospital received victims of an attack on a bus travelling to Chimoio from Manica near the Zimbabwe border, Dr. Walle said.

### GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ 2 NT  
What action do you take?

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦K10952 ♦QJ963 ♦5 ♦Q

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South

1 ♠ 1 ♠ ?

What action do you take?

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦873 ♦KJB ♦QJ ♦98742

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

Pass 1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass ?

What action do you take?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦K84 ♦2987542 ♦6 ♦Q45

The bidding has proceeded:

East South West North

What do you bid now?

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦K10932 ♦AKQ4 ♦A873 ♦46

Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦A81054 ♦6 ♦KQ982 ♦483

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West